(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to apprehend these boats;

(c) whether the coast-guard of most of the East Mediterranean, Persian Gulf and Red Sea Region have been issued an alert to watch out for vessels attempting to smuggle explosives to India; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent influx of arms and explosives to the country ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) There is no specific information in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government have alerted all State Governments as well as the concerned Central Agencies to enforce enhanced surveillance in a fully integrated manner, to counter smuggling activities.

Threat to dissolve Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council

323. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) has threatened to dissolve the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council and revive the demand for Gorkhaland; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) had recently threatened to launch an agitation for a separate State of Gorkhaland and rescind the concept of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council However, the Govt. of West Bengal and Shri Subash Ghisingh, President of the GNFL, are holding negotiations for resolving the problem.

Smugglers/Drug Mafias Instrumental in Bombay Blasts

324. DR. SANJAYA SINH :

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that smugglers from outside India and Drug Mafias have a major role in the recent Bombay blasts as per the news-item entitled "Was it smuggled Wrath", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 17th March, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) While the investigations are continuing the results of the inquiries so far clearly indicate that the conspiracy has been hatched by Pakistan in conjunction with some of the known smugglers and members of the underworld, who were responsible for procurement of sizeable quantities of explosives as well as arms and ammunitions. With a view to prevent recurrence of similar incidents, the Government have alerted all State Governments as well as the concerend Central Agencies to enforce enhanced surveillance in a fully integrated manner, to counter smuggling activities.

Fire at Lal Chowk, Srinagar

325. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate of loss of life and property as a result of fire at Lal Chowk, Srinagar on April 10, 1993;

(b) whether the cause of fire has been ascertained, if so, what are the details thereof;